## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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$\sim$	12	1. In a networked computer system for transmitting messages from a	
7	B	source to a destination, an apparatus for managing the delivery of messages to said	
	~ <i>y</i>	destination, said apparatus comprising:	
	<b>/</b> 5	means for tracking and guaranteeing the delivery of said messages	
	$V_6$	to said destination;	
	7	means for monitoring said tracking and guaranteeing means from a	
	8	single web site;	
	9	means for archiving said messages.	
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7°t	2	2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a database	
	3	associated with said monitoring means for counting the number of messages delivered	
* H	4	during a selected time period.	
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T)	2	3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said monitoring	
ļå FII	3	means comprises an XML application program interface.	
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n	2	4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3 further comprising means for	
	3	conducting searches.	
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	2	5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein said monitoring	
	3	means comprises a portal accessible via the Internet.	
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	2	6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein said monitoring	
	3	means comprises:	
	4	a first server for receiving requests from a user via the Internet,	

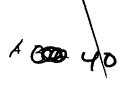
said first server adapted to generate an XML message in response to said request;

6	a second server adapted to receive said XML message and to	
7	perform a function responsive to said XML message; and	
8	means coupled to said second server for communicating the results	
9	of said function to said user	
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2	7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein said monitoring	
3	means further comprises means for distributing XML messages to said delivery means via	
4	the Internet, said XML messages containing operating instructions for changing the	
5	operation of said delivery means.	
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2	8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6 further comprising a database	
3	associated with said monitoring means for counting the number of messages delivered	
4	during a selected time period.	
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2	9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6 further comprising means,	
3	associated with said monitoring means, for recovering at least one of said archived	
4	messages	
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2	10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said monitoring	
3	means comprises an XML application program interface (API) further comprising:	
4	means for receiving a request for a function;	
5	means for building an XML message;	
6	means for interpreting said XML message, said interpreting means	
7	adapted to perform the requested function and returning an XML message to said	
8	building means; and	
9	means for applying a XSI style sheet to the received XML	
10	message and sending the generated output to the user.	
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2	11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 further comprising means for	
3	conducting searches.	
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2	12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein said receiving means	
3	comprises a portal accessible via the Internet.	
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2	13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein said monitoring	
3	means comprises:	
4	a first server for receiving requests from a user via the Internet, said first	
5	server adapted to generate an XML message in response to said request;	
6	a second server adapted to receive said XML message and to perform a	
7	function responsive to said XML message; and	
8	means coupled to said second server for communicating the results of said	
9	function to said user.	
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2	14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein said monitoring	
3	means further comprises means for distributing XML messages to said delivery means via	
4	the Internet, said XML messages containing operating instructions for changing the	
5	operation of said delivery means.	
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2	15. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 further comprising a database	
3	associated with said monitoring means for counting the number of messages delivered	
4	during a selected time period.	
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2	16. A computer implemented method for exchanging information	
3	between trading partners where a source connector generates a message containing the	
4	information, said messages transmitted as a primary message to a destination connector	
5	over a first communication backbone and as a secondary message to said destination	
6	connector over a second communication backbone, said method comprising:	

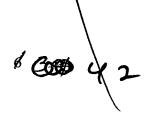
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7	•	monitoring the transmission of said primary and secondary
8	messages;	
9		receiving a request from said trading partners via a web site, said
10	request relating to the transmission of said message;	
11		generating a response to said request, said response generated by
12	querying at least one database having information relating to said primary and	
13	secondary messages; and	
14		transferring said response to said trading partner.
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2	17.	The method as claimed in claim 16 further comprising:
3		counting the number of messages delivered during a selected time
4	period; and	
5		transferring an invoice to the trading partner generating said
6	message.	
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2	18.	The method as claimed in claim 16 further comprising conducting
3	searches for informat	tion responsive to said request stored in said database.
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2	19.	The method as claimed in claim 16 further comprising:
3		receiving requests from a user via the Internet;
4		generating an XML message in response to said request;
5		receiving said XML message at a server computer adapted to
6	access information stored in said database;	
7		performing a function responsive to said XML message; and
8		communicating the results of said function to said user.
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2	20.	The method as claimed in claim 19 wherein said receiving and
3		utilize specific route points and distributed communication
4	network.	\
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2	21. The method as claimed in claim 20 further comprising the step of	
3	counting the number of messages delivered during a selected time period.	
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2	22. The method as claimed in claim 19 further comprising recovering	
3	at least one of said archived messages in response to said request.	
1	23. A computer implemented method for exchanging information	
2	between trading partners in a distributed computer networking system in which each	
3	trading partner has a connector for initiating the transmission of a message along two	
4	separate communication backbones, said method comprising the steps of:	
5	generating a message header for each message for which a charge	
6	is to be imposed; and	
7	aggregating with faid throughout an indication of the time of	
8	associating with said message header an indication of the time of delivery to the trading partner at the destination.	
o	derivery to the trading partner at the destination.	
1	24. The method as claimed in claim 23 wherein said associating step	
2	includes the step of transmitting each message header to a billing database.	
1	25. The method as claimed in claim 23 wherein said generating step	
2	includes the step of determining statistical information regarding transmission latency.	
1	26. The method as claimed in claim 25 further comprising the step of	
2	providing said statistical information to a user through an Internet portal.	
1	27. The method as claimed in claim 26 further comprising the steps of:	
2	submitting a request through said portal;	
4	suomitting a request unough said portai,	

3	identifying the user associated with said request;	
4	accepting sald request at a webserver, said webserver adapted to	
5	building an XML message interpreting said request;	
6	fetching information responsive to said XML message;	
7	preparing a responsive XML message, said responsive XML	
8	message including said responsive information;	
9	interpreting said responsive XML message;	
10	sending said responsive information to the user associated with	
11	said request.	
1	28. The method as claimed in claim 23 wherein said associating step	
2	includes the steps of:	
3	transmitting each message header to a billing database, said message	
4	header including a sequence number; and	
5	locating messages associated with a sequence number missing from said	
6	billing database;	
7	deducting a charge from an account associated with the trading partner	
8	generating said message, said charge based on a user profile associated with said billing	
9	database.	
1	29. The method as claimed in claim 28 further comprising the steps of	
2	configuring alerts;	
3	monitoring the transmission of said messages;	
4	generating an alert when a configured alert condition is detected.	



1	30. The method	od as claimed in claim 23 wherein said generating step
2	includes the step of notifying an	alert recipient.
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